Lake Claremont. At present there are from 4 to 6 pairs on the Lake, and by the end of September two pairs had ducklings, one brood of 4 and one of 5.

—DAVID and MARK HUTCHISON, Swanbourne.

Wanderer Butterfly Sightings in Western Australia (September 1971 to May 1972).—In September 1971, I published a paper (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 12: 25-27) on the occurrence of the Wanderer Butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*, in Western Australia. Since then, the following sightings of this butterfly have been reported to me.

Wembley Downs, 22 February; Woodlands, 23 February; Wembley, 5 March; Riverton, 21 March; Kalamunda, 22 March; Palmyra, 22 March; Cottesloe, 1 April; Kalamunda, 6 mi. E. of, 9 April; between Toodyay and Northam, 15 April; Armadale, 23 April; Darlington, 23 April; Mt. Yokine, 25 May.

The above sightings concern one or two butterflies on single days. It is perhaps still too early to decide whether the Wanderer is increasing in numbers and breeding range around Perth and in parts of the south-west.

—L. E. KOCH, Western Australian Museum.

Sightings of the Aquatic Fern, *Salvinia auriculata*, in the Canning River.—On August 28 and September 14, 1972, *Salvinia auriculata* was observed in Aquinas Bay, Canning River, a region subjected to brackish estuarine conditions in summer. Earlier in the month it was observed washed ashore further west at Point Mt. Henry and the river stretches approaching Canning Bridge.

Appearance of this bouyant aquatic fern followed calm still days, the plant apparently drifting downstream with the influx of freshwater after winter rains. Such a sighting has not been reported in the last 11 years.

The abundance of the plants indicates that *S. auriculata* must be spreading in the upper stretches of the river, past the Riverton Bridge, where year round aquatic conditions are fresh.

Such drift plants did not survive in this region of the river and are usually washed ashore during following windy conditions.

N. SAMMY, Aquinas College, Manning.

Frequency of Leg Damage in Gulls.—Some large flocks of Silver Gull, *Larus novaehollandiae*, were observed near sundown on the south-east beach of Pink Lake, four miles north of Esperance on the 23rd and 24th of January, 1972. Here they assembled after flying in from the ocean beaches before moving across to roost on a mudflat at the eastern end of the lake. It was noted that a very high proportion of the gulls were standing on one leg. A representative section of the flock was counted, and of 68 birds, 29 appeared to be one-legged. Closer observation of the birds as they took off in flight, or were thrown off balance by the wind, indicated that perhaps a fifth of the gulls standing on one leg were in fact two-legged, but behaved as though they were too lame to rest their weight on both legs for any length of time. One or two proved to be two-legged without any obvious signs of lameness, and they may have been resting on one leg for preference. The leg damage seemed to be commoner in adult birds than in birds with juvenile plumage, and a count of 18 juveniles showed only three one-legged individuals.

Similar counts were made by one of us (L. E. S.) during the second week of February at a number of beaches on the west coast with the following results: Crawley Bay, one one-legged bird among 42; Bunbury, no one-legged birds among 55; Busselton, no one-legged birds among 30; Mandurah, three one-legged birds among 94.

It is usually assumed that gulls lose a leg while swimming on the sea as a result of attack by fish. These observations strongly suggest that this type of predation is considerably more intense in the Southern Ocean near Esperance than it is in the Indian Ocean between Perth and Busselton,